Steps to prevent infiltration in border areas

1871. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) in the post-Kargil experience whether Government have taken any steps to prevent infiltration of intruders through the border areas in different sectors; and

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken during the last one year particularly in making our soldiers more equipped?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A constant watch is maintained on the situation both at the border as well as in the hinterland and all possible measures are taken to prevent infiltration into the State and to frustrate the designs of the mentors of the terrorists across the border.

Modernisation of Armed Forces is a continuous process necessitated by changing threat perceptions and advancements in technology. It has always been the policy of the Government to keep Armed Forces in a state of preparedness and to equip them with the latest weaponary and equipment to discharge their responsibility.

Test of IRBMs

1872. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 18th July, 2000 captioned 'Missiles: the Missing link in India's deterrent';

(b) whether it is a fact that India is making slow progress in its Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Programme by having done only a single IRBM test during the last five years whereas every time, China, Pakistan and Iran fire an India-reachable missile; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. India's missile programme is progressing